

Grace Episcopal Church
Cumberland
Cumberland County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-970

HABS

VA

25-CAIR,

1-

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Addendum to
Grace Episcopal Church
State Route 632
Ca Ira
Cumberland County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-970

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HABS No. VA-970

Location: State Route 632, Ca Ira, Cumberland County, Virginia

Present Owner: Friends of Grace Episcopal Church

Present Occupant: Services are held annually by the Congregation

Present Use: Church

PART I. HISTORICAL DATA

A. Chain of Title:

November 12, 1843-(Col.) Valentine Parrish of the County of Cumberland deeded to John C. Page, Alexander Trent, Snr., Nathel M. Osborne, Nelson Page, Alexander Trent, Jr., and William A. Perkins.

"a certain lot or parcel of ground adjoining the town of Ca Ira on the West, and bounded as follows. Originated on the South by the Main road from Ca Ira to Buckingham Court House, West by the line separating it from McAshan's Old Stemmer Lot, on which the fence now runs North by the road leading into said stemmer and, East by the Western Crop Street of the town of Ca Ira, it being the lot, as now enclosed whereon the New Episcopal Church, called Grace Church, has been recently erected, containing about two thirds of an acre, together with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging."

B. Architectural Data:

1. Date of erection: 1843
2. Architect: Built by Col. Valentine Parrish with the guidance of Rev. Henry Kinckle.
3. Builder: Col. Valentine Parrish with work by Albert Mann, Col. Valentine Parrish's slave.

C. Description of known alterations:

The 'robing' room is a later addition. The window detail and the door detail are definitely of a later period.

The chimneys also appear to have been added later.

The balcony may have been completed somewhat later than the rest of the church, for the detailing is that of the Roman Revival rather than that of the Greek Revival.

August 28, 1955, Mrs. Blake W. Corson made a contribution "for an outside cross to be erected on the church building, of a design to be

approved by the proper authorities." The cross was erected before the next annual meeting (September 9, 1956).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character and significance: Grace Episcopal Church is a simple, brick temple-like church, typical of rural Virginia.
2. Condition of fabric: Most of the church is in good condition with the exception of the flooring which has suffered some termite damage on the west side, and the ceiling where there has been water damage caused by a leak in the roof.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Brief description: Grace Episcopal Church is a simple, brick Greek Revival church, approximately 32 feet wide and 48 feet long, with a main floor and a balcony.
2. Foundation: The brick foundation is 16 inches wide and $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep at the southwest corner to 19 inches deep at the northwest corner. There are air holes $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches high in the foundation for ventilation. The foundation is in good condition.
3. Wall construction: The walls are made of 3" by 8" unglazed, hand-packed bricks. The east and south sides are both of Flemish bond, the north side is of 5 course American bond, and the west side has 4 rows of stretchers with a row of Flemish bond on either side. The mortar between the bricks has been painted to make the bricks appear more even.
4. Structural systems:
 - a. Walls: 12" thick bearing walls of brick.
 - b. Floor structure: 11" x $3\frac{1}{2}$ " floor joists laid into the 16" thick brick foundation at 22" intervals.
 - c. Roof structure: Mortise and tenion truss roof system.
5. Extension: A robing room was added to the rear (north side) of the church.
6. Chimneys: There are two small brick chimneys. One is located above the center of the main room. The other is located further to the rear. Both have windcaps.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doors and doorways: There were originally two exterior doors.

There was the main batten double door of heart pine, which is located on the south (front) elevation of the church, and the funeral door, which was located on the east elevation of the church. The funeral door has since been converted to a window. The robing room, a later addition, has a single paneled door located on its west side.

The main door is framed by 8" rectilinear moulding and is topped by a pointed fan window. The funeral door is framed by 8" rectilinear moulding and louvered shutters. A slightly pointed wooden lintel is located above the funeral door. There are 6" squares on either side of the lintel. (A triple-hung window with wooden paneling beneath it, has replaced the original door.)

b. Windows and window frames:

South or front elevation: There are two triple windows of twelve over twelve over twelve sash, one on either side of the of the main door. Above the main door is a pointed fan window. Directly above this window in the typanum, is another pointed fan window.

West elevation: There are three triple-hung windows with twelve over twelve over twelve sash on this side of the church.

North elevation: There are two triple-hung windows on the rear of the church.

East elevation: There are three triple-hung windows on this side of the church, including the triple-hung window that has replaced the funeral door. There is also a double-hung window located on this side of the vestry room. The triple-hung windows are framed by louvered shutters and 8" rectilinear moulding. They are topped by pointed lintels except on the north elevation where they are topped by rectangular lintels. All of the triple-hung windows have 6" squares on either side of their lintels. The vestry window is framed by 7" moulding, and is not shuttered.

8. Roof:

- a. Description: The roof is made of Buckingham slate, which has been placed directly on top of 12" boards. The ends of the gable form pediments on both the front (south) and rear (north) elevations. A white wood cornice frames the brick pediment. Centered in the front (south) pediment is a lancet arch fan window. There is a small white wooden cross at the center front of the roof.
- b. Condition: The roof leaks and there has been some water damage to the plaster ceiling.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Main floor: The two main aisles leading down to the altar, divide the room into three parts, each part containing a set of pews. The freestanding set of center pews is larger than the side pews, which are slightly angled and are anchored to the wall.
- b. Balcony: The balcony has one center aisle and two side aisles.

2. Stairway: There is an enclosed stairway on the east side of the church, which leads to the balcony. On one side of the stairway is beaded diagonal paneling. There is no stair rail.

3. Flooring:

- a. Description: The flooring is of unfinished wood.
- b. Condition: The flooring is weak on the west side because of termite damage.

4. Wall and ceiling finish:

- a. Wall treatment: The dado is paneled gray. The walls are of white plaster. Separating the paneling from the plaster is a maroon chair rail.
- b. Ceiling treatment: The ceiling is of white plaster and is in need of repair.

5. Doorways: Simple rectilinear moulding frames the doorways. The moulding is gray to match the paneling of the dado.

6. Detailing:

- a. Window mouldings: The 6½" window mouldings are painted gray and come down to the chair rail.
- b. Seating: The pews are gray with maroon trim and are quite simple in design.
- c. Altar: The altar is enclosed in a U-shaped balustrade with rectangular rungs. The altar itself is fretted.
- d. Balcony: Two Doric columns, which help provide support for the balcony, pierce through the last row of benches on the main floor. Pilasters have been placed where the balcony meets the side walls, for visual support. Above the Doric columns is a denticulated cornice and the balcony railing. The balcony railing has curvilinear rungs.